Message Text

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EUR:WE:MCROMER;S (PHONE)

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R 240337Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PARIS INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF HMONG REFUGEES IN FRENCH GUIANA

- 1. DEPT HAS BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME THAT ABOUT 500 HMONG (MEO) REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN AN AGRICULTURAL SETTING IN FRENCH GUIANA. AS THE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN INDOCHINESE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT HAS NOT INCLUDED THIS TYPE OF SCHEME, WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN OBTAINING FEEDBACK ON THE PROGRESS OF HMONG RESETTLEMENT IN FRENCH GUIANA. WE BELIEVE EXPERIENCE OF HMONG IN GUIANA MAY CONTAIN USEFUL LESSONS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF HMONG IN SIMILAR AGRICULTURAL FASHION ELSEWHERE.
- 2. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACTING AMBASSADOR CHAYET AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS TO SEEK GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSESSMENT OF THIS HMONG RESETTLEMENT PROJECT AND WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO: A) CHIEF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (CASH AND SUBSISTENCE CROPS) B) PRESENT AND PLANNED ACREAGE PER FAMILY C) IMPLEMENTOR OF PROJECT D) MANNER IN WHICH REFUGEES SELECTED FOR PROJECT AND PLANNED CAPACITY E) COST OF PROJECT WITH BREAKDOWN OF KEY ITEMS.

- 3. EMBASSY CAN ASSURE FRENCH SOURCES THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED WOULD BE FOR DEPARTMENT'S BACKGROUND USE ONLY; IF PROJECT APPEARS TO BE GOING WELL WOULD FRENCH HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO DEPT OFFICER MAKING LOW-KEY VISIT TO SITE?
- 4. IN ADDITION DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY CONTACTED DR. YANG DAO, THE HMONG ANTHROPOLOGIST, TO GET HIS ASSESSMENT OF HOW HMONG ARE FARING IN GUIANA. YANG DAO IS UNIQUE RESOURCE ON QUESTION OF HMONG RESETTLEMENT IN GENERAL AND MAY HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS ABOUT GUIANA. YANG DAO CAN BE REACHED 16 RUE DU RAVIN, 91350 GRIGNY FRANCE.
- 5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE PRELIMINARY RESPONSE BY MARCH 30. VANCE

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